

Pat

File up

this tickle item came on
on a bill Sen Humphrey
introduced yesterday. I
gave a copy to JMM and
thought you should have one.
RK.

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Press Item for the DCI

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(SECURITY)

WASHINGTON--CONGRESS SHOULD HAVE AN AGENCY SIMILAR TO THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, SEN. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, D-MINN., SAID TUESDAY, AND INTRODUCED A BILL TO CREATE ONE. THE AGENCY, WHICH HE WOULD CALL THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, WOULD OPERATE AS A COUNTERPART TO THE NSC BUT WOULD NOT USURP THE POWERS OF EITHER THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, HE SAID.

AMONG ITS DUTIES, HE SAID, WOULD BE STUDIES OR REVIEWS OF ALL ISSUES CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM AND THE VIETNAM PAPERS RECENTLY MADE PUBLIC.

"I CANNOT HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT IF WE SHARED MORE FULLY IN MOMENTOUS DECISIONS, LIKE THOSE IN VIETNAM," HUMPHREY SAID, "WE WOULD BE LESS DIVIDED AS A NATION BY THE BITTERNESS AND HATREDS THAT CONFRONT US TODAY."

HUMPHREY WAS VICE PRESIDENT WHEN MOST OF THE DECISIONS TO ESCALATE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM WERE MADE, BUT HE HAS SAID HE HAD NO PART IN THE DECISION-MAKING AND OFTEN WASN'T INFORMED ABOUT THEM UNTIL AFTER THE FACT.

HUMPHREY ALSO ADDED IN A TALK WITH NEWSMEN AFTER THE PENTAGON PAPERS WERE REVEALED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SADDENED IF HIS ROLE IN THE VIETNAM DECISION-MAKING WERE REVEALED.

HE SAID THE COMMITTEE, WHOSE MAKEUP WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WHICH REVIEWS THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC DECISION.

IT WOULD HAVE 25 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, THE LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES IN BOTH HOUSES, THE RANKING MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES ON THE APPROPRIATIONS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES AND THE JOINT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE.

THE COMPOSITION, HUMPHREY SAID, "WILL MAKE POSSIBLE CLOSER CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS."

THE FOUR MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE, HE SAID, WOULD BE:

--"TO COMPREHENSIVELY STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALL ISSUES CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY;

--"TO REVIEW, STUDY AND EVALUATE THE 'VIETNAM PAPERS,' AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, WHETHER PUBLISHED HERETOFORE OR NOT, COVERING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA;

--"TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON GOVERNMENT PRACTICES OF CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS;

--"AND TO CONDUCT A CONTINUING REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE AND STATE, AND OTHER AGENCIES INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY."

IT WOULD NOT USURP THE LEGISLATIVE NOR INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS OF ANY PRESENT COMMITTEES, HE SAID. IT WOULD "SUPPLEMENT AND COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS IN A MORE COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK."

Goodwin and Maury have copies.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the